

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /088 W
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R 210935Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2383
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6331

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK, XF
SUBJECT: BHUTTO CALLS FOR ISLAMIC DEFENSE PACT

1. PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS JUNE 21 HEADLINE BHUTTO'S CALL FOR A DEFENSE TREATY AMONG ALL MUSLIM STATES MADE DURING JUNE 20 INTERVIEW ON ABU DHABI TELEVISION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PM CALLED FOR THE CONVENING OF A THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT, FOR MUSLIM COUNTRIES TO CONCLUDE NO-WAR PACTS AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MACHINERY TO RESOLVE INTER-STATE DISPUTES IN THE MUSLIM WORLD.

2. BHUTTO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE PROBLEMS OF "WORLD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION" IT WAS TIME TO TAKE "CONCRETE STEPS" RATHER THAN INDULGE IN "MERE TALK." HE NOTED THAT EXCESSIVE TALK ABOUT A GENEVA CONFERENCE HAD LED TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT IN
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ISRAEL. IN HIS CALL FOR A NEW ISLAMIC SUMMIT, HE NOTED THAT IT COULD BE HELD ANYWHERE BUT THAT IT WAS AGAIN TIME TO DISCUSS THE "PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE ISLAMIC WORLD."

3. BHUTTO KNOWS THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS CALL FOR AN ISLAMIC DEFENSE TREATY BEING ACCEPTED IS NEGLIGIBLE AT BEST. THE PM UNDERSTANDS THAT DIVISIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THE DIVERSITY

AMONG MUSLIM STATES MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL ALMOST MEANINGLESS.
HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR MACHINERY TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AND
HIS CALL FOR NO-WAR PACTS FALL IN THE SAME CATEGORY.

4. YET BHUTTO FACES SERIOUS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AT HOME AND
UNDOUBTEDLY SEES HIS MID-EAST TRIP AND HIS PROPOSALS AS USEFUL
TOOLS TO BURNISH HIS IMAGE IN PAKISTAN AS A RESPECTED AND
RECOGNIZED WORLD STATESMAN. HIS CALLS FOR GREATER UNITY IN
THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND HIS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING
THAT UNIT - REGARDLESS OF HOW UNREALISTIC - WILL, HE HOPES,
ALSO REFURBISH HIS CREDENTIALS AS A SOUND AND SERIOUS ISLAMOPHILE.
WHEN HE RETURNS HOME HE WILL USE THE TRIP AND HIS PROPOSALS TO
CLAIM HIS OPPONENTS IN THE PAKISTAN POLITICAL FORUM - INCLUDING
THE RIGHT-WING RELIGIOUS PARTIES - DO NOT HAVE HIS STATURE OR
HIS ABILITY TO SAFEGUARD PAKISTAN'S POSITION IN THE
ISLAMIC WORLD.

5. BHUTTO WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH HIS PROPOSALS OUTSIDE OF PAK-
ISTAN AND TOUT THEM WITHIN THE COUNTRY. RATHER THAN THE MOST
RECENT JOURNEY OF AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN, THE PM'S MID-EAST
TOUR SHOULD BE SEEN, HOWEVER, AS THE OPENING SALVO IN THE
NATION'S NEW POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.
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